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Zycie Warszawy.

## 1950 CENSUS HISTS 5.9 MILLION DWELLING UNITS

The urban and rural census of dwelling units showed that at the end of 1950 Poland had 5,900,000 dwelling units, with a total of 13,700,000 rooms. According to the 1931 census, there were 6,400,000 iwelling units with around 12 million rooms. Poland then had a population of 32 million people, and now has a population of 25 million, proving that despite war destruction Poland has achieved a higher ratio of dwelling units to population for the country as a whole than before the war. Finere are actually more rooms in Poland now than before the war. No mention is made of the inclusion of the Recovered Territories and their effect on this ratio.

The prewar status of dwelling units for the whole of Poland was as follows: 40 percent of all dwellings consisted of one room. In industrialized cities, inhabited largely by the working class, the percentage of one-room dwellings was even higher: in Lodz 59.7 percent, Czestochowa 49.5 percent, Radom 48.3 percent, and in Warsaw 42.7 percent. The one- and two-room dwellings were the most run-down, primitive, and dark. According to prewar statistics, workers occupied 81.7 percent of the one- and two-room dwellings. The smallest and worst dwellings were the most crowded.

Housing conditions in Warsaw were even worse. Average occupancy was four persons per room in the one-room dwellings, 2.4 persons per room in the two-room dwellings, 1.6 persons per room in three-room dwellings, and 1.1 persons per room in dwelling units of four rooms and more.

Barely 3 percent of the one-room dwelling units had a hall, and only one percent had a private toilet. None had a bath. Sixty-nine percent of these dwelling units were also used as commercial premises, and 94 percent of the windows faced dark, narrow courtyards.

The rural housing situation was no better. One-room units comprised 59 percent of all dwellings, with average occupancy of five persons per room.

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The housing situation of the masses did not improve during the 20 years between wars. On the contrary, it became worse. The few prewar housing projects were rented to yield maximum profit, and were inaccessible to the working class.

The present building program cannot be compared with the prewar building program quantitatively or qualitatively. In 1950, the increase in new rooms was 68,000, and nearly 88,000 are to be completed in 1951. The construction is planned not for the wealthy minority but for the working masses. The dwellings will be well lighted and will have proper sanitary facilities. They will not be hovels in basements or garrets, or temporary barracks situated in some remote suburb lacking communal facilities. The construction projects will include individual houses, settlements, and entire cities. Prime consideration will be given to the welfare of the occupants, the working people.

The extensive repair program, for which the state is spending millions, is also intended to correct existing housing conditions. The repair of miners' dwellings alone reached 16,000 rooms in 1949, 46,000 rooms in 1950, and will reach 92,000 rooms in 1951.

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